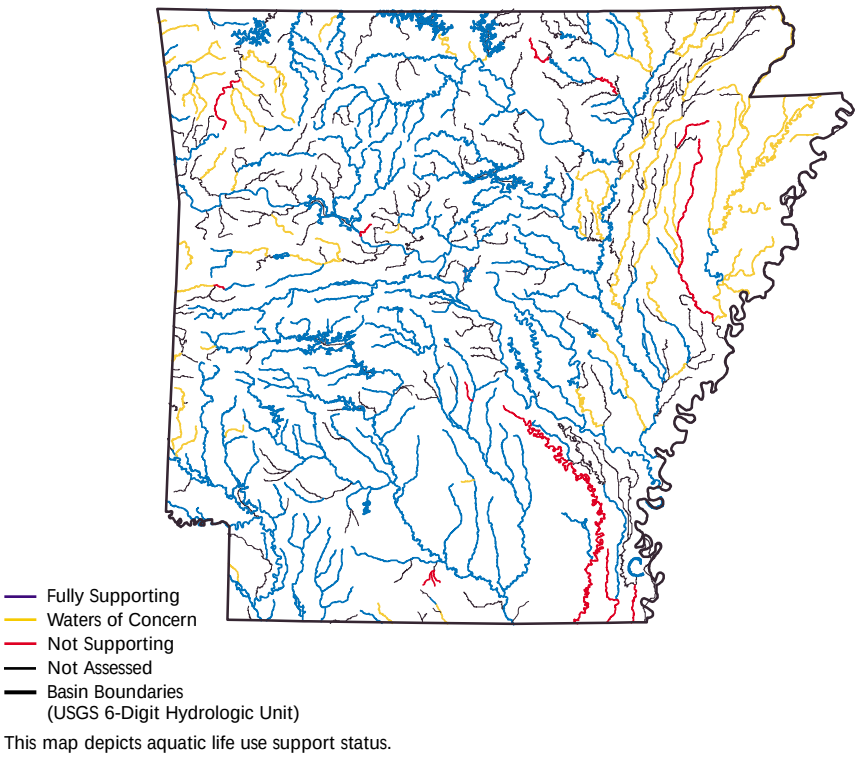
# Arkansas




This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

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## Surface Water Quality

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality reported that 69% of their surveyed rivers and streams and 100% of their surveyed lake acres have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses. Good water quality also fully supports swimming use in 93% of the surveyed river miles and 100% of the surveyed lake acres. Siltation and turbidity are the most frequently identified pollutants impairing Arkansas' rivers and streams, followed by bacteria, nutrients, and metals. Agriculture is the leading source of pollution in the state's rivers and streams and has been identified as a source of pollution in four lakes. Municipal wastewater treatment plants, mining, industrial discharges, and construction also impact rivers and streams. Arkansas has limited data on the extent of pollution in lakes.

Special state concerns include the development of TMDLs and more effective methods to identify nonpoint source impacts. Arkansas is also concerned about impacts from the expansion of confined animal production operations and major sources of turbidity and silt including road construction, road maintenance, riparian land clearing, streambed gravel removal, and urban construction.

Arkansas did not report on the condition of wetlands.

## Ground Water Quality

Aquifer monitoring indicates that ground water quality in Arkansas is generally good. Secondary maximum contaminant wells were exceeded in a number of locations for parameters such as pesticides, iron, and manganese. Potential sources of contamination include disposal sites, underground storage sites, agriculture, and mining operations.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Arkansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program is currently being revised to include all categories of NPS pollution. It provides for continued monitoring of water quality, research into the effectiveness of BMPs, and implementation strategies for BMPs. Beginning in 1997, a Priority Water Program was developed to target NPS-impacted watersheds for BMP implementation. Ten watersheds were selected for either more intensive survey activities or BMP implementation activities.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

Arkansas classifies its water resources by ecoregion with similar physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. There are six ecoregions including the Delta, Gulf Coastal, Ouchita Mountain, Arkansas River Valley, Boston Mountain, and Ozark Mountain Regions. By classifying water resources in this manner, Arkansas can identify the most common land uses within each region and address the issues that threaten the water quality.

The state's ambient monitoring network includes 133 stations monitored monthly for several key water quality parameters. Many of these stations have been monitored for 15 to 20 years or longer. In addition, 103 additional stations sampled quarterly were added in 1994 to assess previously unassessed waters or waters that have not been monitored in several years. The data analyzed for this report were collected from October 1995 through September 1997.

## Individual Use Support in Arkansas

| Designated Use[a] | | Percent: Good (Fully Supporting) | Good (Threatened) | Fair (Partially Supporting) | Poor (Not Supporting) | Not Attainable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 87,617)[b]** | | | | | | |
| | Total Miles Assessed: 8,668 | 69 | - | 22 | 8 | - |
| | 8,668 | 95 | - | <1 | 5 | - |
| | 7,479 | 93 | - | 7 | <1 | - |
| **Lakes (Total Acres = 514,245)** | | | | | | |
| | Total Acres Assessed: 356,254 | 100 | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| | 356,254 | 95 | - | - | 5 | - |
| | 356,254 | 100 | - | 0 | 0 | - |

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Arkansas' designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.